

**St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC  
Order for Worship for 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 11.00am**

**Welcome and Notices**

**Call to Worship** – Romans 8:35, 37-39

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Hymn** – R&S 95. God is love: let heaven adore him

1. God is love: let heaven adore him;  
God is love: let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.  
He who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heavens above,  
he who breathes through all creation,  
he is love, eternal love.

2. God is love, and is enfolding  
all the world in one embrace;  
his unfailing grasp is holding  
every child of every race;  
and when human hearts are breaking  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
that same sorrow, that same aching  
wrings with pain the heart of God.

3. God is love: and though with blindness  
sin afflicts and clouds the will,  
God's eternal loving kindness  
holds us fast and guides us still.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so Love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees (1874 – 1939)

**Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer**

**Almighty God, infinite and eternal in wisdom, power and love: we praise you for all that you are and for all that you do for the world. You have shown us your truth and your love in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Help us by your Spirit to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness.

**Lord God most merciful, we confess that we have sinned, through our own fault, and in common with others, in**

thought, word and deed, and through what we have left undone.

**We ask to be forgiven.**

**By the power of your Spirit turn us from evil to good, help us to forgive others, and keep us in your ways of righteousness and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In repentance and in faith receive the promise of grace and the assurance of pardon. Here are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." (1 Timothy 1:15) Your sins are forgiven for his sake.

**Thanks be to God.**

We say together the prayer that Jesus himself gave us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Reading** – Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

**Hymn** – R&S 108. The love of God is broad like beach

1. The love of God is broad like beach and meadow,  
wide as the wind, and an eternal home.  
God leaves us free to seek him or reject him,  
he gives us room to answer Yes or No.

*The love of God is broad like beach and meadow,  
wide as the wind and an eternal home.*

2. We long for freedom where our truest being  
is given hope and courage to unfold.  
We seek in freedom space and scope for dreaming,  
and look for ground where plants and trees can grow.
3. But there are walls that keep us all divided;  
we fence each other in with hate and war.  
Fear is the bricks and mortar of our prison,  
our pride of self the prison coat we wear.
4. O judge us, Lord, and in your judgement free us,  
and set our feet in freedom's open space;  
take us as far as your compassion wanders  
among the children of the human race.

© Anders Frostenson (1906 - )  
Tr. by Fred Kaan (1929 – 2009)

**Blessing for our Young Friends**

**Almighty and Eternal God, we ask your blessing on our young friends wherever they are, those still required to stay at home, those returning to school, all who are still separated from their friends and anxious about the future. We pray that you will give them hope, inner peace and the profound knowledge that they are loved and cared for. Please keep them safe and wrap your blessing around them. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.**

**Reading** – Matthew 13:24-30

**Talk 1** – Wheat and Tares Together Sown

**Hymn** – R&S 353. There's a wideness in God's mercy

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice  
which is more than liberty.
2. There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.
3. There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in the Lord's unfathomed bliss.
4. For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.
5. But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.

6. If our love were but more simple  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be illumined  
by the glory of the Lord.

F. W. Faber (1814 – 1863) altd.

**Talk 2**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**Almighty and Eternal God, please receive our heartfelt thanks for all the many blessings of this life and for all your love and goodness towards us. As an expression of our gratitude we offer to you all that we have and all that we are, asking for your blessing on all our giving, in whatever way we are able to give, and we pray that you will use our gifts for the work of your Kingdom of love, in our homes, in our Church, in our communities and in our world.**

Jesus taught his disciples always to pray and never to lose heart.

God, all just and all merciful, your compassion is over all that you have made. We pray for your Church throughout the world: for our faithfulness in proclaiming the good news; for our mission to reach out with Christ's love to all who are in need; for our witness, to shine as light wherever darkness prevails; for our peace and unity, so that we may be a sign of reconciliation to a divided and troubled world.

**We pray for all Christ's people everywhere, that we may be given strength to walk his way, to embrace his truth and to show forth the values he lived by.**

We pray, Eternal God, for justice for all those who are denied it, all those who suffer for their beliefs, or who are persecuted for who they are, that their rights and dignity may be upheld. We pray for all those who are exploited and abused, either at work or in their own homes, that their cries might be heard.

**We pray for the many who go poor while the few prosper, that your earth's resources may be wisely and fairly shared.**

We pray, Eternal God, for the world in all its need, for your peace everywhere. Especially today we pray for all those who are suffering in the current pandemic, all who are ill in hospital and at home; we pray for all victims of war, terror, hunger and disease, that they may find healing and freedom. We pray for all who have been forced to leave their homes, that they may find safety and security.

**We pray for all who misuse the power that has been entrusted to them, that they may serve others and not themselves. We pray for all those who nurture hatred and violence in their hearts, that they may come to see that human life, in all its wonderful variety, is far too precious to harm or destroy.**

In a moment of quiet reflection, we hold before God, in the silence of our hearts, all those whom we know to be in need of our prayers today:

*Silence*

We pray, Eternal God, that you will touch them with your healing love and that your light will shine in their darkness.

**Eternal God, we remember with joy those whose journey on earth has ended and who are now with you, whose lives have helped and encouraged us on our way. We pray that we may come with them to that place where there are no endings or beginnings, but one equal joy in your eternal presence. And to you, Eternal God, be all honour, praise and glory, now and for evermore. Amen.**

**Hymn – R&S 685. Through all the changing scenes of life**

1. Through all the changing scenes of life,  
in trouble and in joy,  
the praises of my God shall still  
my heart and tongue employ.
2. Of his deliverance I will boast,  
till all that are distressed  
from mine example comfort take,  
and soothe their griefs to rest.
3. O magnify the Lord with me,  
with me exalt his name;  
when in distress to him I called,  
he to my rescue came.

4. The hosts of God encamp around  
the dwellings of the just;  
deliverance he affords to all  
who on his succour trust.
  
5. O make but trial of his love;  
experience will decide  
how blest are they, and only they,  
who in his truth confide.
  
6. Fear him, ye saints, and you will then  
have nothing else to fear;  
make you his service your delight,  
your wants shall be his care.

Psalm 34:1-4, 7-9

Para. N. Tate (1652 – 1715) and

N. Brady (1659 – 1726) *New Version*, 1696; altd.

### **Benediction**

May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be  
with us all and all those whom we love and cherish, this day and  
for evermore. **Amen.**

Opening Prayers and Prayers of Intercession adapted for use from  
'Worship: from the United Reformed Church'.